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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 12 October 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached letter, dated 12 October 2011, from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its attachments* to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

* The attached charging document is circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex

Enclosed please find the letter that I wrote to you yesterday regarding the recently disrupted conspiracy to assassinate in Washington, D.C., the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States and to carry out additional follow-on attacks inside the United States and against other countries. As noted in the letter, we have confirmed information that this conspiracy was conceived, sponsored and directed by elements of the Government of Iran. Had this terrorist plot not been disrupted, it would likely have resulted in the injury or death of the Saudi Ambassador and others.

We request that you transmit the present letter, yesterday's enclosed letter, and the enclosed charging document to the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**

Enclosure

11 October 2011

I would like to bring to your attention an attempted plot that constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. The United States has recently disrupted a conspiracy to assassinate in Washington, D.C., the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States and to carry out additional follow-on attacks inside the United States and against other countries. We have confirmed information that this conspiracy was conceived, sponsored and directed by elements of the Government of Iran. Had this terrorist plot not been disrupted, it would likely have resulted in the injury or death of the Saudi Ambassador and others.

According to our information, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force and several of its high-ranking officers, including Hamed Abdollahi, Abdul Reza Shahlai and Ali Gholam Shakuri, directed and funded the conspiracy.

This plot constitutes a violation of Iran's commitments under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973). Consistent with this Convention and pursuant to United States law, on 11 October 2011, the United States brought charges in the United States Federal Court of the Southern District of New York against Manssor Arbabsiar, who is a citizen of Iran and a naturalized United States citizen, and Ali Gholam Shakuri, who is a national of Iran. Enclosed is the charging document containing the details of the conspiracy. The United States arrested Arbabsiar on 29 September 2011. He is currently in United States custody in New York City, and the United States plans to prosecute him to the full extent of United States law. Ali Gholam Shakuri remains at large.

In accordance with article 6 of the Convention, the United States requests that you notify Iran of the above measures. The United States expects Iran, in line with its obligations under this Convention, to undertake immediate, credible and verifiable action to hold accountable any other persons responsible for this conspiracy, including but not limited to Ali Gholam Shakuri. The United States has directly notified the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the State of which the internationally protected person concerned is a national, of the above measures.

The United States notes that this incident also constitutes a violation of other international legal obligations, including the requirement contained in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) that States "refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists". We intend to discuss this matter with other members of the Security Council.

We request that you transmit the present letter and the enclosed charging document to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**

Attachment

Approved: /s/ /s/
GLEN A. KOPP/EDWARD Y. KIM
Assistant United States Attorneys

Before: HONORABLE MICHAEL H. DOLINGER
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	SEALED AMENDED COMPLAINT
	:	Violations of
- v. -	:	18 U.S.C. §§ 1117, 1958, 2, 2332a, 2332b
MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri,"	:	COUNTY OF OFFENSE: NEW YORK
Defendants.	:	

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

O. Robert Woloszyn, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE
Conspiracy to Murder A Foreign Official

1. From at least in or about the spring of 2011, up to and including in or about October 2011, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate Section 1116 of Title 18, United States Code.

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did agree to kill a foreign official, to wit, ARBABSIAR and SHAKURI agreed with each other and with others to kill the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia, while the Ambassador was in the United States.

Overt Acts

3. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the

illegal object thereof, the following overt acts were committed, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about August 1, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, caused an overseas wire transfer of approximately $49,960 to be sent by a foreign entity from a bank located in a foreign country to an FBI undercover bank account (the "UC Bank Account"). Before reaching the UC Bank Account, the funds were transferred through a bank in Manhattan, New York.

b. On or about August 9, 2011, ARBABSIAR caused an overseas wire transfer of approximately $49,960 to be sent by a foreign entity from a bank located in a foreign country to the UC Bank Account. Before reaching the UC Bank Account, the funds were transferred through a bank in Manhattan, New York.

c. In or about the spring of 2011, GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, provided thousands of dollars to ARBABSIAR in Iran to pay for expenses related to furthering the plot to kill the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1117.)

COUNT TWO
Foreign Travel and Use of Interstate and Foreign Commerce Facilities in the Commission of Murder-For-Hire

4. From at least in or about the spring of 2011, up to and including September 29, 2011, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, willfully and knowingly traveled in foreign commerce and used, and caused another to use, a facility of interstate and foreign commerce, to wit, bank wire transfers to an account in the United States from foreign entities, with the intent that a murder be committed in violation of the laws of the United States, to wit, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1116 and 1117, as consideration for the receipt of, and as consideration for a promise and agreement to pay anything of pecuniary value, as those terms are defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1958(b), to wit, ARBABSIAR caused to be wired approximately $100,000 into the United States, as partial consideration for the murder of the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1958 and 2.)

COUNT THREE

Conspiracy to Engage in Foreign Travel and Use Interstate and Foreign Commerce Facilities In the Commission of Murder-For-Hire

5. From at least in or about the spring of 2011, up to and including in or about October 2011, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1958.

6. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did agree together and with each other to use travel in foreign commerce and the facilities of interstate and foreign commerce, to wit, bank wire transfers to an account in the United States from foreign entities, with the intent that a murder be committed in violation of the laws of the United States, to wit, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1116 and 1117, as consideration for the receipt of, and as consideration for a promise and agreement to pay anything of pecuniary value, to wit, ARBABSIAR, SHAKURI, and others known and unknown, caused to be wired approximately $100,000 into the United States as partial consideration for the murder of the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia.

Overt Acts

7. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, the acts set forth in Paragraph 3 above.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1958.)

COUNT FOUR

Conspiracy To Use A Weapon of Mass Destruction

8. From at least in or about the spring of 2011, up to and including in or about October 2011, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a

"Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332a(a)(2)(A) and (C).

9. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, would use a weapon of mass destruction, namely, a destructive device as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 921, against a person within the United States, where a facility of interstate and foreign commerce was used in furtherance of the offense, to wit, bank wire transfers to an account in the United States from foreign entities, and where a perpetrator of the offense traveled in foreign commerce in furtherance of the offense, to wit, ARBABSIAR and SHAKURI agreed with each other and with others to use an explosive device against the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia.

Overt Acts

10. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, the acts set forth in Paragraph 3 above.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332a(a)(2)(A) and (C).)

COUNT FIVE
Conspiracy to Commit An Act of Terrorism
Transcending National Boundaries

11. From at least in or about the spring of 2011, up to and including in or about October 2011, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2332b(a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (b)(1)(A) and (b)(1)(B).

12. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and

unknown, would kill and maim persons within the United States and would create a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to others by destroying and damaging structures, conveyances and other real and personal property within the United States, in violation of the laws of the United States, including Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1116 and 1117, where interstate and foreign commerce is used in furtherance of the offense, to wit, bank wire transfers to an account in the United States from foreign entities, and where the offense would have obstructed, delayed and affected interstate commerce had it been consummated, to wit, ARBABSIAR and SHAKURI, during meetings outside the United States, agreed with each other and with others to kill the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia, while the Ambassador was in the United States.

Overt Acts

13. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," and GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendants, and others known and unknown, committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, the acts set forth in Paragraph 3 above.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332b(a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(2), (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B).)

The bases for my knowledge and the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

14. I have been a Special Agent with the FBI since March of 1999. I have participated in the investigation of this matter, and have spoken with other individuals, including other law-enforcement officials, about this investigation. The facts and circumstances of this investigation have been summarized for the specific purposes of the instant affidavit. No attempt has been made to set forth the complete factual history of this investigation or all of its details.

15. I make this affidavit based on, among other things, my personal review of evidence obtained in the course of the investigation, as well as information and belief. The sources of my information and belief include, but are not limited to, conversations with other law-enforcement officers; reviews of reports and other documents prepared by law-enforcement personnel; reviews of business records; draft transcripts and translations of recordings, as well as the underlying recordings themselves; and the defendant's post-arrest statements. Where the actions, statements and conversations of others, or the

contents of documents, are recounted or described herein, they are related in substance and in part, unless otherwise indicated.

I. OVERVIEW

16. As set forth more fully below, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, is a naturalized citizen of the United States who holds both a United States and an Iranian passport. ARBABSIAR and his Iran-based co-conspirators, including GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, a member of the Qods Force, see infra ¶ 17, have been plotting the murder of the Ambassador to the United States of Saudi Arabia ("Ambassador"). In furtherance of this conspiracy, ARBABSIAR has met on a number of occasions in Mexico with a Drug Enforcement Administration confidential source ("CS-1"). In the course of these meetings, CS-1 has posed as an associate of a sophisticated and violent international drug-trafficking cartel. See infra n.2. ARBABSIAR arranged to hire CS-1 and his purported criminal associates to murder the Ambassador, and SHAKURI and other Iran-based co-conspirators were aware of and approved the plan. With SHAKURI's approval, ARBABSIAR caused approximately $100,000 to be wired into a bank account in the United States for CS-1 – as a down-payment to CS-1 for his anticipated killing of the Ambassador.

II. BACKGROUND: THE IRANIAN ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS AND THE QODS FORCE

17. During the course of my investigation, I have become familiar with the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (the "IRGC") and the Qods Force. Based in part on my review of publicly-available information, including findings and statements by the United States Department of State, the United States Department of Treasury, and other "open source" information, I have learned the following: the IRGC is an arm of the Iranian military; the IRGC is suspected of having been involved in a number of foreign operations; the IRGC is composed of a number of branches, one of which is the Qods Force. The Qods Force conducts sensitive covert operations abroad, including terrorist attacks, assassinations, and kidnappings, and provides weapons and training to Iran's terrorist and militant allies. Among many other things, the Qods Force is believed to sponsor attacks against Coalition Forces in Iraq, and in October 2007, the United States Treasury Department designated the Qods Force, pursuant to Executive Order 13224, for providing material support to the Taliban and other terrorist organizations.

III. THE INVESTIGATION

A. MAY 2011: ARBABSIAR MEETS CS-1 AND DISCUSSES WITH HIM THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ATTACK

18. On or about May 24, 2011, according to travel records, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, traveled back and forth from Texas to Mexico. In Mexico, ARBABSIAR met with CS-1.[1] During this May 24 meeting, and all others with ARBABSIAR, CS-1 posed as an associate of a drug-trafficking cartel ("Drug Cartel #1").[2] After the May 24 meeting with ARBABSIAR, CS-1 described to law-enforcement agents what had transpired. CS-1 explained that, at the meeting, ARBABSIAR inquired as to CS-1's knowledge, if any, with respect to explosives. According to CS-1, ARBABSIAR explained to CS-1 that he was interested in, among other things, attacking an embassy of Saudi Arabia. In response, and to further the discussion, CS-1 told ARBABSIAR that he was knowledgeable with respect to C-4 explosives.[3]

19. On or about May 30, 2011, according to travel records, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, traveled internationally, by plane from Houston, Texas.

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[1] CS-1 is a paid confidential source. Previously, CS-1 was charged in connection with a narcotics offense by authorities of a certain U.S. state ("State"). In exchange for CS-1's cooperation in various narcotics investigations, the State charges were dismissed. CS-1 has previously provided reliable and independently corroborated information to federal law-enforcement agents; this information has led to numerous seizures of narcotics. In addition, CS-1 has been paid by federal law-enforcement officials in connection with the work he has done.

[2] Drug Cartel #1 is a large, sophisticated, and violent drug-trafficking cartel. It is well-known throughout North America, and its principal places of operation are Mexico and the United States. According to published reports, Drug Cartel #1 has access to military-grade weaponry and explosives, and has engaged in numerous acts of violence, including assassinations and murders.

[3] "C-4" is a type of plastic explosive. Like other plastic explosives, C-4 can generally be molded, so that it can be shaped and formed with a certain degree of precision.

B. JUNE AND JULY 2011: ARBABSIAR RETURNS TO MEXICO AND HIRES CS-1 TO KILL THE UNITED STATES-BASED AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA

20. On or about June 23, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, who had traveled internationally, see supra ¶ 19, returned by plane to Mexico.

21. According to CS-1, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, again met with CS-1 in Mexico in late June and July. Over the course of a series of meetings, ARBABSIAR explained to CS-1 that his associates in Iran had discussed a number of violent missions for CS-1 and CS-1's purported criminal associates to perform. These included, among others, the murder of the Ambassador.

22. On or about July 14, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, met with CS-1 in Mexico. At the direction of law-enforcement agents, CS-1 made an audio recording of the meeting. CS-1 and ARBABSIAR spoke English during the meeting. Based on my review of draft transcripts of the July 14 recorded meeting, I learned that at this meeting the following occurred, among other things:[4]

a. CS-1 told ARBABSIAR that CS-1 would need to use "[a]t least four guys" and that CS-1 was "talking to one of the guys" and would "take the one point five for the Saudi Arabia." I understand this to mean that CS-1 would need to use four men to assassinate the Ambassador and that the cost to ARBABSIAR of conducting the assassination would be $1.5 million.[5] CS-1 told ARBABSIAR that he would "go ahead and work on Saudi Arabia, get all the information that we can"; ARBABSIAR agreed that the assassination of the Ambassador should be handled first.[6] After CS-1 stated, "you just want the, the main guy,"

[4] In his post-arrest statement, see infra Part IV, ARBABSIAR has admitted that he participated in each of the recorded meetings described in this Complaint, and he has confirmed that he agreed to pay CS-1 to kill the Ambassador.

[5] Both above, and throughout, the quoted language is taken from the draft transcripts. My understanding of the meaning of those quoted terms, where supplied, is based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation.

[6] Prior to the July 14, 2011 meeting, CS-1 had reported that he and ARBABSIAR had discussed the possibility of attacks on

ARBABSIAR confirmed that he just wanted the "[A]mbassador" -- which I understand to mean that ARBABSIAR wanted CS-1 to arrange for the assassination of the Ambassador before executing the other attacks they had discussed.

b. CS-1 and ARBABSIAR then discussed how ARBABSIAR would pay CS-1. ARBABSIAR asked CS-1 what bank he planned to use, and CS-1 stated that he would give ARBABSIAR "an account number." At a later time during the same conversation, ARBABSIAR stated that the "money is [i] Iran," and that he (ARBABSIAR) had received a call indicating that the money would be at the house of a certain individual ("Individual #1"). When ARBABSIAR called Individual #1, "he [Individual #1] said he had it there" and that he (Individual #1) had received "the money at nine in the morning." ARBABSIAR said the "money's a hundred thousand" but that he (ARBABSIAR) would have to "send a hundred . . . ten thousand, ten thousand, ten thousand. I don't wanna send it to one guy, one shot." I understand ARBABSIAR to mean that he had $100,000 in Iran to pay CS-1 as a first payment toward the assassination of the Ambassador, but that ARBABSIAR wanted to send the money to CS-1 in installments and not in a single transfer.

c. During their July 14 meeting, CS-1 asked ARBABSIAR about ARBABSIAR's cousin, who, according to ARBABSIAR, was located in Iran and had requested that ARBABSIAR find someone (ultimately, CS-1) who could carry out the attack on the Ambassador described above. ARBABSIAR explained that his cousin was "wanted in America," had been "on the CNN," and was a "big general in [the] army." ARBABSIAR further explained that there were a number of parts to the army of Iran and that his cousin "work[s] in outside, in other countries for the Iranian government[.]" ARBABSIAR further explained that his cousin did not wear a uniform or carry a gun, and had taken certain unspecified actions related to a bombing in Iraq. Compare supra ¶ 17. In the portions of the July 14 meeting referenced in this sub-paragraph, I understand ARBABSIAR to be saying that his cousin works for the military of Iran, in particular, for the Qods Force, and that his cousin focuses on matters outside of Iran.

d. At the end of the July 14 meeting, CS-1 told ARBABSIAR, "[w]e're gonna start doing the guy," which I

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a number of other targets. These targets included foreign government facilities associated with Saudi Arabia and with another country, and these targets were located within and outside of the United States.

understand to mean that CS-1 and ARBABSIAR confirmed that CS-1 would proceed to plan the assassination of the Ambassador.

23. On or about July 17, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, met with CS-1 – again, see supra ¶ 22, in Mexico. At the direction of law-enforcement agents, CS-1 recorded the meeting. CS-1 and ARBABSIAR spoke English during the meeting. Based on my review of draft transcripts of the July 17 meeting, I learned that at this meeting the following occurred, among other things:

a. CS-1 made reference to "my guy over there . . . he's already in Washington," which I understand to be a reference to the fact that one of CS-1's workers had purportedly already traveled to Washington, D.C. to surveil the Ambassador. CS-1 then asked, "I got this on the computer . . . is this the guy right here?" – to which ARBABSIAR replied, "Yeah, that's him." Based, among other things, on my discussions with other agents, I understand that during this portion of the conversation, CS-1 showed ARBABSIAR a photograph of the Ambassador.

b. CS-1 described what he had purportedly begun to learn about the Ambassador, stating that the Ambassador has "eight to seven security people around him . . . [h]e goes out and eat like two times a week in a restaurant . . . [m]y guy is already over there . . . doing surveillance." CS-1 then reflected, "I don't know what exactly your cousin [see supra ¶ 22(c)[7]] wants me to do. . . ." After some further conversation, ARBABSIAR replied: "[h]e wants you to kill this guy." CS-1 then explained, "there's gonna be like American people there . . . in the restaurant. You want me to do it outside or in the restaurant?" ARBABSIAR answered: "[d]oesn't matter how you do it. I mean, if you do it by himself, kill is better, but . . . sometime, you know, you have no choice, is that right?" I understand ARBABSIAR and CS-1 to have been discussing how the Ambassador should be killed, and ARBABSIAR to be saying that his cousin wanted the Ambassador killed; without bystander casualties if possible ("by himself, kill is better") but not if operational necessities dictated otherwise ("sometime, you know, you have no

[7] During the course of the July 17 conversation, ARBABSIAR further described his cousin. ARBABSIAR said that his cousin was "working for [the] government [of Iran] but he's working outside. . . . He's working like . . .[l]ike [a named, non-Iranian intelligence agency]."

choice").[8]

c. On a number of occasions, ARBABSIAR reassured CS-1 that CS-1 and his (CS-1's) men would indeed be paid for killing the Ambassador. ARBABSIAR told CS-1 to tell the people working for him (CS-1) that he (ARBABSIAR) could "guarantee the money. . . I [ARBABSIAR] got the money coming." ARBABSIAR emphasized that "this is politics, ok . . . it's not like, eh, personal . . . This is politics, so these people [ARBABSIAR's co-conspirators in Iran] they pay this government . . . he's got [ARBABSIAR's cousin has got] the, got the government behind him . . . . . he's not paying from his pocket." To facilitate payment, at one point during the July 17 meeting, CS-1 gave ARBABSIAR "the account number . . . in [a U.S. bank] . . . and the U.S. routing number" – the unique number associated with the United States bank account into which ARBABSIAR could arrange for payment to be made to CS-1 for the assassination of the Ambassador.

d. ARBABSIAR explained that his cousin and an individual who worked for his cousin had paid his (ARBABSIAR's) expenses related to the assassination plot. ARBABSIAR stated, "I tell him [ARBABSIAR's cousin], give me just another fifteen. Just . . . next morning they send one guy, you know, that work for him [ARBABSIAR's cousin]. He's like a colonel, the guy." CS-1 asked, "Did the colonel take the money, the money to you?" ARBABSIAR responded, "Yes, man. He opened the door for me, the colonel, he bring the envelope. He put the envelope there for me." Based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation, including my participation in the post-arrest interview of ARBABSIAR, I understand that the "colonel" that ARBABSIAR referred to is GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, and that ARBABSIAR was stating that after he received expense money from his cousin, he received an additional expense payment from SHAKURI, see infra n.13.

e. At the end of the July 17 meeting, ARBABSIAR

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[8] On numerous occasions during the July 17 meeting, ARBABSIAR made it clear that the assassination needed to go forward, even if doing so would cause mass casualties. For example, ARBABSIAR said: "They want that guy [the Ambassador] done [killed], if the hundred go with him, fuck 'em." In a similar vein, ARBABSIAR and CS-1 also discussed the means by which the Ambassador would be killed. CS-1 said: "I'm gonna blow him [the Ambassador] up or shoot him, whatever you want." ARBABSIAR responded: "Yeah, it doesn't matter . . . [w]hatever is easy for . . . how is possible for you."

declared "[l]et it hit the restaurant. If, if you can do it outside, do it. If not, restaurant, hit it, it's ok," by which I understand ARBABSIAR to mean that if CS-1 could not assassinate the Ambassador outside the restaurant, he should "hit" or bomb the restaurant. In response, CS-1 then noted that there were "from a hundred, a hundred and fifty [people in the restaurant]" and "buildings on the sides," and "senators [U.S. Senators who dine there]," all of which ARBABSIAR dismissed as "no problem" or "no big deal," meaning that the potential for such casualties should not dissuade CS-1 from killing the Ambassador.

C. **JULY AND AUGUST 2011: PAYMENTS ARE MADE TO CS-1**

24. According to travel records, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, traveled from Mexico, departing for a foreign country, on or about July 20, 2011.[9]

25. As noted above, see supra ¶ 23, at the July 17 meeting, CS-1 provided MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, with a bank account and routing number, so that payment could be made for the assassination of the Ambassador. The account information CS-1 provided was in fact associated with the UC Bank Account.

26. On or about August 1, 2011, an overseas wire transfer of approximately $49,960 was sent by a foreign entity ("Foreign Entity-1") from a bank located in a foreign country (the "Foreign Bank") through a bank in Manhattan to the UC Bank Account.

27. On or about August 6, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, spoke with CS-1 on the telephone. CS-1 recorded the conversation. Based on my review of draft transcripts of the recorded conversation, I know that during the call, CS-1 asked ARBABSIAR whether he (ARBABSIAR) had "already finished the other half of . . . the money." ARBABSIAR replied, "I sent it yesterday." I understand that ARBABSIAR was acknowledging that the previous day he sent to CS-1 the second half of the approximately $100,000 down-payment, see supra ¶ 22(b), for the murder of the Ambassador. I understand that "the other half" of the $100,000 was received on or about August 9,

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[9] Three days prior to ARBABSIAR's July 20 flight, during the July 17 meeting with CS-1, see supra, ARBABSIAR indicated to CS-1 that ARBABSIAR would be traveling to Iran on July 20 to see his cousin.

2011, see infra ¶ 28, and that the first "half" was received on or about August 1, 2011, see supra ¶ 26.

28. On or about August 9, 2011, an overseas wire transfer of approximately $49,960 was sent by another foreign entity ("Foreign Entity-2") from the Foreign Bank through a bank in Manhattan to the UC Bank Account.

29. On or about August 11, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, spoke with CS-1 on the telephone. CS-1 recorded the conversation. Based on my review of draft transcripts of the recorded conversation, I know that during the call, ARBABSIAR asked CS-1, "Did you check the bank?" CS-1 responded in the affirmative, "I check in the bank, everything is there." I understand that ARBABSIAR was confirming that CS-1 received the $49,960 that arrived in the UC Bank Account on or about August 9, 2011, see supra ¶ 28.

D. SEPTEMBER 2011: ARBABSIAR RETURNS TO MEXICO

30. On or about September 2, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, spoke with CS-1 on the telephone. CS-1 recorded the conversation. Based on my review of draft transcripts of the recorded conversation, I know that during the call, ARBABSIAR asked CS-1 if the "building is getting painted" and CS-1 responded "we're still doing that." I understand that by asking that question, ARBABSIAR was asking CS-1 whether the arrangements to kill the Ambassador were still underway.[10] ARBABSIAR then stated, "once we do this one, you gonna open a [U/I] like, uh . . . you got the number for the safe" and "[o]nce you open the door, that's it. You know what I mean? . . . [y]ou don't have to worry about anything." I understand that ARBABSIAR was explaining to CS-1 that after CS-1 and his team assassinated the Ambassador, CS-1 would make money from that and other projects with ARBABSIAR and his associates, see supra n.6.

31. On or about September 12, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, spoke with CS-1 on the

[10] Based on my training and in my experience, individuals who speak explicitly about criminal activity during in-person meetings, see, e.g., supra ¶¶ 22, 23, often speak in coded language during telephone conversations, in an effort to conceal the subject matter of their discussions in the event that they are overheard or intercepted.

telephone. CS-1 recorded the telephone conversation. Based on my review of a draft transcript of the recording, I learned that ARBABSIAR told CS-1 that "the number is gonna stay the same thing . . . [o]ne and a half . . ." I understand ARBABSIAR was stating that CS-1 would receive the same amount of money ("[o]ne and a half": $1.5 million) for the assassination that ARBABSIAR and CS-1 had previously discussed. See supra ¶ 22(a). ARBABSIAR also referred to "the number we did" and told CS-1 that he could "prepare for those too . . . but we need to at least one of them." I understand ARBABSIAR to have been informing CS-1 that in the future CS-1 could prepare for the additional attacks previously mentioned, see supra n.6, but that CS-1 first needed to assassinate the Ambassador. ARBABSIAR promised CS-1 that if he does "at least one . . . I'll send the balance for you," which I understand to mean that CS-1 would receive the remainder of his $1.5 million payment after the Ambassador has been assassinated. ARBABSIAR also stated, "[t]he first one they just want it . . . for test," which I understand to mean that CS-1's first task was designed as a test run, with future assignments to follow if the assassination was successful.

32. On or about September 20, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, spoke with CS-1 on the telephone. CS-1 recorded the telephone conversation. Based on my review of a draft transcript of the recording, I learned that CS-1 told ARBABSIAR, "I'm ready for the . . . for the thing, for the house, man, to be painted but . . . I need to, I need, either I need you or I need half of the . . . of the check that we're gonna receive to . . . so I can go ahead and . . . be finished with the job." I understand CS-1 to have been requesting that ARBABSIAR either pay one-half of the agreed upon price ($1.5 million, see supra ¶ 22(a)) for the murder of the Ambassador or go personally to Mexico to serve himself as collateral for the final payment of the fee for the assassination.[11] Based on my training and experience, I know that this form of personal guarantee is common for large scale illicit transactions. Ultimately, based on my review of the transcript of the September 20, 2011 call, I believe that ARBABSIAR agreed to travel to Mexico per CS-1's request to guarantee payment for the murder of the Ambassador ("I'm gonna go over there [in] two [or] three days, I'll go over there. . . . Don't wait for me. Get ready, but I'll be over there."). Later during the night of September 20, CS-1 returned a call from ARBABSIAR. At the direction of law-enforcement agents, CS-1 recorded the telephone conversation.

[11] CS-1 initially requested that ARBABSIAR send someone to Mexico as collateral in a recorded call between CS-1 and ARBABSIAR on or about August 28, 2011.

During the call, ARBABSIAR inquired as to "how long [he] need[s] to stay in Mexico." I understand ARBABSIAR to have been asking how long he would have to stay in Mexico to supply a sufficient guarantee for payment to CS-1 and CS-1's associates following completion of the plot to murder the Ambassador.

E. THE ARREST AND SEARCH

33. On or about September 28, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, flew to Mexico. ARBABSIAR was denied entry into Mexico, and then flew on to John F. Kennedy International Airport ("JFK"), in New York City. During the flight, law-enforcement officials aboard conducted surveillance of the defendant without alerting him to their presence. After ARBABSIAR exited the plane at JFK, law-enforcement agents arrested ARBABSIAR.

34. After he was placed under arrest, law-enforcement agents recovered numerous items from MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, and from his luggage. (The luggage was searched pursuant to a warrant issued by a United States Magistrate Judge.) These items included, among other things: approximately $3,900 in United States currency, composed of one-hundred dollar bills; a sum of Iranian currency; an Iranian passport; a United States passport; and a travel itinerary reflecting a flight departing Mexico during October of 2011, with an ultimate destination of Tehran, Iran.

IV. ARBABSIAR'S CONFESSION

35. Several hours after his arrest, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, was advised of his Miranda rights and his right to a speedy presentment. ARBABSIAR agreed to waive those rights and to speak with law-enforcement agents. As set forth more fully below in the paragraphs that follow, during a series of Mirandized interviews, ARBABSIAR confessed to his participation in the plot described above.[12] In particular, and as described more fully below, ARBABSIAR admitted that he had arranged for CS-1 to murder the Ambassador; that he

[12] The interviews were conducted principally in English. Occasionally, ARBABSIAR spoke in Farsi. One of the law-enforcement agents who conducted the interviews is fluent in Farsi. A small portion of the substance of ARBABSIAR's oral statement is described in the instant Complaint. In addition to providing an oral statement, the defendant signed a typewritten statement admitting to the conduct that forms the basis for the charges herein.

(ARBABSIAR) had discussed with CS-1 the means by which CS-1 and his criminal associates would commit the murder; and that he (ARBABSIAR) made a down-payment to CS-1 for the murder by causing a total of $100,000 to be deposited in the UC Bank Account. Furthermore, ARBABSIAR admitted that in connection with this plot, he (ARBABSIAR) was recruited, funded, and directed by men he understood to be senior officials in the Qods Force, see supra ¶ 17. ARBABSIAR further explained that men he understood to be senior Qods Force officials were aware of and approved, among other things, the use of CS-1 in connection with the plot; payments to CS-1; and the means by which the Ambassador would be killed in the United States and the casualties that would likely result.

36. MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, explained that his cousin, see supra, approached ARBABSIAR in the early spring of 2011, while ARBABSIAR was in Iran, and asked ARBABSIAR to work with him (ARBABSIAR's cousin). ARBABSIAR had long understood that his cousin (hereinafter "Iranian Official #1"), was a high-ranking member of the Qods Force. ARBABSIAR told Iranian Official #1 that as a result of his business in both Mexico and the United States, he (ARBABSIAR) knew a number of people who traveled between the two countries, and some of those people, he (ARBABSIAR) believed, were narcotics traffickers. Iranian Official #1 told ARBABSIAR that he wanted ARBABSIAR to hire someone who could kidnap the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States and that ARBABSIAR should find someone in the narcotics business, because people in that business are willing to undertake criminal activity in exchange for money.

37. MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, further acknowledged that Iranian Official #1 subsequently provided ARBABSIAR with thousands of dollars for expenses.[13] ARBABSIAR thereafter traveled to Mexico, where he met CS-1.[14]

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[13] In the course of his discussions with Iranian Official #1, Iranian Official #1 indicated that another individual, GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, worked for him (that is, for Iranian Official #1) as his (Iranian Official #1's) deputy. After Iranian Official #1 provided ARBABSIAR with thousands of dollars for expenses, SHAKURI separately provided ARBABSIAR with thousands of dollars for expenses.

[14] During the course of his interviews, ARBABSIAR explained how he came to meet CS-1.

38. MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, admitted that, while he was in Mexico, he (ARBABSIAR) and CS-1 discussed, among other things, a plan to kill the Ambassador by bombing a restaurant the Ambassador frequented, for which CS-1 said he would charge $1.5 million. ARBABSIAR then returned to Iran from Mexico.

39. MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, stated that upon his return to Iran, he (ARBABSIAR) met together on a number of occasions in Tehran with GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, and a third individual, who ARBABSIAR understood was a high-ranking member of the Qods Force (hereinafter "Iranian Official #2").[15] ARBABSIAR stated he also met routinely on a one-on-one basis with SHAKURI. During these meetings, the following occurred, among other things:

a. ARBABSIAR indicated that he (ARBABSIAR) had located a drug dealer in Mexico (referring to CS-1). ARBABSIAR was asked to have CS-1 kidnap or kill the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States, and told that it would need to be done fast. ARBABSIAR was also asked whether CS-1 would travel internationally, so that CS-1 could speak face-to-face with other operatives. ARBABSIAR indicated that CS-1 would not do so.

b. ARBABSIAR stated that the plan was to blow up a restaurant in the United States frequented by the Ambassador and that in light of that plan numerous people, in addition to the Ambassador, could be killed. This plan was approved.

c. ARBABSIAR was instructed to use code words when communicating with SHAKURI. For example, ARBABSIAR was instructed to use the code word "Chevrolet" for the Ambassador plot.

d. A down-payment of $100,000 to CS-1 for the

[15] ARBABSIAR has been shown an array of seven photographs. Amongst these seven photographs were one photograph of each of two men known to the United States to be senior members of the Qods Force. It is believed that these two photographs are not publicly available. ARBABSIAR identified one of these photographs as depicting Iranian Official #2. The person depicted in the photograph that ARBABSIAR identified is known to the United States to have used the alias by which ARBABSIAR knew Iranian Official #2.

murder of the Ambassador was approved.[16]

e. SHAKURI advised ARBABSIAR that an individual whom ARBABSIAR understood to be the leader of the Qods Force (hereinafter "Iranian Official #3"), was aware of what ARBABSIAR was doing and that he (ARBABSIAR) could meet with Iranian Official #3 in the future.

40. In or about late September 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, met with GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, in Tehran. ARBABSIAR explained that CS-1 wanted either to receive half of the money previously promised for the completion of the murder, or to have ARBABSIAR travel back to Mexico as a guarantee of payment, see supra ¶ 32. SHAKURI stated that no more money would be given to CS-1, and advised ARBABSIAR against traveling back to Mexico. SHAKURI said that ARBABSIAR was responsible for himself if he did travel. SHAKURI then told ARBABSIAR to get in contact with him (SHAKURI) via telephone after ARBABSIAR'S arrival in Mexico so that he (SHAKURI) could be sure ARBABSIAR was well.

V. OCTOBER 2011: RECORDED TELEPHONE CALLS BETWEEN SHAKURI AND ARBABSIAR

41. Following the arrest of MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, ARBABSIAR agreed to place a recorded call to GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant. On October 4, 2011, at the direction of federal law enforcement agents, ARBABSIAR placed a call to an Iranian telephone number ("Iranian Phone Number"). Agents monitored and recorded the call.[17] Following the call, ARBABSIAR indicated that the person he was speaking with was SHAKURI. Based on my review of the draft translation of that recording I know that SHAKURI asked, "[a]re you ok, . . . are you well?" to which ARBABSIAR responded, "Yes, I wanted to see how you're doing and to tell you I am well." SHAKURI responded, "Okay, thank God, stay well." SHAKURI then added, "I was waiting," and asked,

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[16] Subsequently, Individual #1 told ARBABSIAR that he (Individual #1) had received a delivery of money from SHAKURI. ARBABSIAR then arranged for this money to be sent from Tehran to the United States.

[17] On this call and the calls referenced in paragraphs 42 and 43, ARBABSIAR and SHAKURI spoke in Farsi. I have reviewed draft translations of these three calls.

"what news . . . what did you do about the building?" Based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation, I understand the question about "the building" to be a reference to the plot to murder the Ambassador and a question about its status. Cf. supra ¶ 30.

42. On October 5, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, placed another monitored and recorded call to the Iranian Phone Number. Following the call, ARBABSIAR indicated that the person he was speaking with was GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant. Based on my review of a draft translation of the recorded conversation, I know that during the call, the following occurred, among other things:

a. ARBABSIAR stated, "I wanted to tell you, the Chevrolet is ready, it's ready, uh, to be done. I should continue, right?" See supra ¶ 39(c) (noting that "Chevrolet" was the agreed-upon code for the plot to murder the Ambassador). SHAKURI responded, "Yes. Yes, yes." SHAKURI later asked, "You mean you are buying all of it?" ARBABSIAR responded, "I don't know for now, it's ready, okay?" SHAKURI replied, "So buy it, buy it." ARBABSIAR confirmed, "Buy it? Okay." SHAKURI then stated, "Buy it, yes, buy all of it." Based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation, I understand that SHAKURI confirmed by these statements that ARBABSIAR should move forward with the plot to murder the Ambassador.

b. ARBABSIAR then stated that "this boy wants, uh, some money, he wants some expenditure. What do you say, should we give him some more? He wants another 50," and SHAKURI responded, "With you, no, you . . . that amount is fine, [UI] brought me another car. Tell him to finish his work, then we'll give him the rest. He should buy the car for us first." Based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation, I understand that on this call, SHAKURI was insisting that CS-1 should not receive any additional money until he had killed the Ambassador.

c. Thereafter, SHAKURI urged ARBABSIAR "[j]ust do it quickly, it's late, just buy it for me and bring it already." I understand that SHAKURI is urging ARBABSIAR to accomplish the agreed upon task - the murder of the Ambassador - as quickly as possible.

43. On October 7, 2011, MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, placed another monitored and recorded call to the Iranian Phone Number. Following the call, ARBABSIAR indicated that the person he was speaking with was

GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant. Based on my review of a draft translation of the recorded conversation, I know that during the call, the following occurred, among other things:

a. ARBABSIAR stated, ". . . this Mexican, . . . keeps on insisting on the thing. He says, 'If - I need money, 50. I won't do the job if you don't pay.' And everything's ready." SHAKURI responded, "Okay." ARBABSIAR asked, "What do you say now?" SHAKURI replied, "I don't know. You guaranteed this yourself . . . of course, if we give it, we'll give it to you. Okay? If he gives it, fine; if not we must provide the 100 [or] 50. Tell him, [U/I]." ARBABSIAR then stated, "Well, yeah. Now, I - what do you say? What should I do? [U/I]" SHAKURI responded, "How much is he talking about?" ARBABSIAR said, "I don't know. He's saying, for instance, well now - he says well - so, I thought, so that the 100 we gave won't go to waste; that's why. On the other hand, we gave a 100 and that would go to waste as well." See supra ¶¶ 26-28 (noting that CS-1 was paid $100,000 as a down-payment for killing the Ambassador). SHAKURI replied, "Well, yeah, but what if you give this one it goes to waste as well?" Based on my participation in this investigation, I understand that SHAKURI was questioning whether additional payments should be made to CS-1 ("this Mexican"), in light of the fact that CS-1 had not yet killed the Ambassador, and had already been paid $100,000 ("100").

b. Shortly thereafter ARBABSIAR stated, referring to CS-1, "That's what the Mexican . . . wants . . . What can I do?" and SHAKURI responded, "Okay, today I'll discuss it to see what they say." Based on my experience and participation in this investigation, I understand that SHAKURI is explaining that he would consult with his superiors regarding whether they would be willing to pay CS-1 additional money.

c. Thereafter, SHAKURI stated, "You said that for sure they're saying that much. We didn't discuss it though, we - in any case, he needs to deliver it to us, okay?" to whic ARBABSIAR responded, "Completely. Yeah, yeah, I know what you're saying." SHAKURI then said: "You guaranteed it" and ARBABSIAR responded, "Well, I guaranteed it, but they . . . they're not ordinary people . . . they're not law abiding . . . people." See supra ¶¶ 32, 33 (CS-1 asked ARBABSIAR to travel personally to Mexico as a guarantee that CS-1 would be paid in full upon the killing of the Ambassador; ARBABSIAR thereafter traveled to Mexico). Based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation, I understand that SHAKURI was reminding ARBABSIAR that he (ARBABSIAR) traveled to Mexico to serve as a personal guarantee of full payment to CS-1 upon the killing of

the Ambassador.

d. SHAKURI then stated: "You said it yourself, they - from our point of view of - when we get our merchandise, we get our merchandise." SHAKURI added, "We have guaranteed the rest. You were our guarantee." Based on my training, experience and participation in this investigation, I understand that SHAKURI was stating that "we", meaning himself and others involved in the plot, had "guaranteed" full payment to CS-1 for the killing of the Ambassador by ARBABSIAR's presence in Mexico ("You were our guarantee"). See supra ¶¶ 32, 33.

WHEREFORE, deponent respectfully requests that MANSSOR ARBABSIAR, a/k/a "Mansour Arbabsiar," the defendant, be imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be, and that a warrant issue for the arrest of GHOLAM SHAKURI, a/k/a "Ali Gholam Shakuri," the defendant, and that he be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be.

O. Robert Woloszyn

(*Signed*) O. Robert **Woloszyn**
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me this
11th day of October, 2011

HONORABLE MICHAEL H. DOLINGER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK